

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Cancelled) A fire retarding polypropylene composition comprising:

- (a) a copolymer of polypropylene resin in which ethylene/propylene rubber has been grafted onto the polypropylene chains; and
- (b) at least about 50% but not greater than 60% by weight of a magnesium hydroxide coated with an anionic surface active agent, the magnesium hydroxide having:
 - (i) a strain in the $\langle 101 \rangle$ direction of not more than 3.0×10^{-3} ,
 - (ii) a crystallite size in the $\langle 101 \rangle$ direction of more than 800 Å, and
 - (iii) a specific surface area, determined by the BET method, of less than $20 \text{ mg}^2/\text{g}$,

wherein the composition being adapted to meet FMRC standards for use in a clean room.

2. (Cancelled) The composition of claim 1 wherein said copolymer contains between about 80% and about 85% polypropylene and between about 15% and about 20% ethylene/propylene rubber.

3. (Cancelled) The composition of claim 1 wherein the melt flow index of said copolymer is less than about 1 gram per 10 minute interval.

4. (Cancelled) The composition of claim 1 wherein said copolymer is halogen-free.

5. (Newly added) A wet bench for use in a clean room, said wet bench comprising:

a benchtop; and

at least two support members extending downwardly from said benchtop, wherein at least said benchtop comprises a fire retarding polypropylene composition comprising:

(a) a copolymer of polypropylene resin in which ethylene/propylene rubber has been grafted onto the polypropylene chains; and

(b) at least about 50% but not greater than 60% by weight of a magnesium hydroxide coated with an anionic surface active agent, the magnesium hydroxide having:

(i) a strain in the $\langle 101 \rangle$ direction of not more than 3.0×10^{-3} ;

(ii) a crystalline size in the $\langle 101 \rangle$ direction of more than 800 Å;
and

(iii) a specific surface area, determined by the BET method, of less than $20 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$;

wherein the composition meets the fire resistance standards developed by FMRC for use in a clean room.

6. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 5 wherein said copolymer contains between about 80% and about 85% polypropylene and between about 15% and about 20% ethylene/propylene rubber.

7. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 5 wherein the melt flow index of said copolymer is less than about 1 gram per 10 minute interval.

8. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 5 wherein said copolymer is halogen-free.

9. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 5 wherein said fire retarding polypropylene composition has a Young's modulus of at least about 1.0 ft-lbs. psi.

10. (Newly added) A wet bench for use in a clean room, said wet bench comprising:

a benchtop; and

at least two support members extending downwardly from said benchtop, wherein at least said benchtop comprises a fire retarding polypropylene composition comprising:

(a) a copolymer of polypropylene resin in which ethylene/propylene rubber has been grafted onto the polypropylene chains; and

(b) at least about 50% but not greater than 60% by weight of a magnesium hydroxide coated with an anionic surface active agent.

11. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 10 wherein said copolymer contains between about 80% and about 85% polypropylene and between about 15% and about 20% ethylene/propylene rubber.

12. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 10 wherein the melt flow index of said copolymer is less than about 1 gram per 10 minute interval.

13. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 10 wherein said copolymer is halogen-free.

14. (Newly added) The wet bench according to claim 10 wherein said fire retarding polypropylene composition has a Young's modulus of at least about 1.0 ft-lbs. psi.